



## City of St. Helens

### Frequently Asked Questions



## *\$2 Recreation Charge on Utility Bills*

### **Background Information**

For many years, our City Council has heard community requests for affordable childcare, recreation programs, and activities for children and adults. In early 2018, the City conducted a survey of the community that had over 700 responses. Results of that survey showed the need and desire for a Recreation Program and that respondents were willing to pay \$5 or more per month for the program. In partnership with the St. Helens School District, the City created a Recreation Program with locations in town, using our current parks and facilities. In 2019, the City Council voted to enact a \$2 monthly charge on utility bills to fund the program. The \$2 monthly charge begins in January of 2020. The utility charge allows the program to continue to grow and provide needed services while City Council and staff work toward sustainable funding for the future of the program after the December 2021 fee sunset.

### **How Much & Where Does it Go?**

The \$2 per month charge (\$24 per year) goes toward the Recreation Program to help pay for programs, facilities, and staffing. In partnership with the St. Helens School District, the City is able to use many school facilities for programs, classes, and sports. With this additional fee in effect, City of St. Helens residents will receive discounted prices for many of the programs and events that are put on by the Recreation Program.

### **How do I get Involved or Learn More About the Program?**

On the City's website, you can locate information about the program at <https://www.ci.st-helens.or.com/recreation>.

You may also visit the Recreation Center located at 1810 Old Portland Road in St. Helens, Oregon to ask questions or grab a copy of the most current Activity Guide.

The phone number for the Recreation Center is 503-366-8208.

### **How do I Give Feedback About the Program or Fee?**

Please reach out by phone or leave a comment online at <https://www.ci.st-helens.or.us/contact>.

You may also speak during the visitor comments time at any public meeting. City Council meetings are held on the first and third Wednesdays of every month at 1:00 PM and 7:00 PM at City Hall located at 265 Strand Street.